

"what discount?"

"we have a senior citizen discount, sir."

"oh ... how old do you have  
to be ... i'm only fifty-two."

now she colors slightly and says,  
"it ... it doesn't really matter.  
would you like the discount, sir?"

"sure," i say: "why not?"

my first senior citizen discount  
and i don't even really enjoy it.  
but i'm sure it's one of many things  
that i'll be getting used to now.

#### DOING MY DENNIS HOPPER IMITATION

i smiled goodbye to the pretty receptionist  
at the ymca pool and went to store  
my gym bag in the trunk before  
driving home. but as i spread my  
towel and bathing suit to dry, a  
pair of jockey shorts fell out.  
i knew there were two pairs,  
an extra clean pair and the one  
i'd worn to the pool,  
so, instinctively, i raised this one  
to my nose to ascertain which  
one was which. they were the  
fresh ones, but my eyes fell on the  
sweet young thing who'd followed me  
out with the membership card i'd left  
back at the desk.

#### THE LAST COMIDA

it had been at least a year since  
i had eaten at pancho's, a place that for over  
thirty years has been serving good, plentiful,  
and inexpensive meals to students, families, and  
older people in a bright, clean, no-frills setting,  
supervised, both kitchen and dining room,  
by pancho and his family.

tonight i ordered, a la carte,  
a chorizo tostada, a chicken enchilada,  
and a beer. no soup, no salad, no rice,



no beans, no extra guacamole or sour cream  
or chips, just these three items, plus  
tax, plus fifteen percent tip.  
the meal was just as good and generous  
as it had ever been,  
and the simple ambiance unchanged,

but the total was now considerably more  
than i used to budget to feed my family  
of four for a week in 1964 in tucson  
when i was a graduate student.

of course we never ate out then.

i guess i won't be eating out much longer either.

#### GOOD BOY

when toad returns to school  
he notices that a number of  
his feminist colleagues greet him  
with not only a kind word and a  
smile, but with an affectionate  
pat on the shoulder.

at first he thinks, "what do you  
know — i must be regaining my  
physical magnetism!"

but he soon learns that there  
has been a recent conference on  
techniques of diminishing resistance  
in unreconstructed adversaries.

#### IT ALL MADE SENSE IN HER HEAD

to their house guests she explains why  
"her" six-packs of coke are secreted about  
the house in cabinets, drawers, even the  
bureau next to her bed:

"i started doing it," she explains with pride,  
"one sunday when the children and i came  
home absolutely parched from visiting museums  
up in l.a. on a hot day and he had finished  
off the last cokes in the refrigerator. he  
said he'd walk to the corner market and  
replace them at half-time of the football game,  
but i marched the kids right over there on the